

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 HA-05 IO-13 SAA-01 SSM-03 /098 W  
-----053512 161746Z /43

R 161026Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9378  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, IR, AF  
SUBJ: FRIENDLY STATEMENT OF NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO IRAN

1. NEW AFGHAN AMB TO IRAN, DR. MOHAMMAD NAJIB, PRESENTED COPY OF HIS CREDENTIALS TO FONMIN KHALATBARY JULY 12 AND GAVE OFFICIALS PARS NEWS AGENCY AN INTERVIEW SHORTLY THEREAFTER, WHICH APPEARED IN LOCAL AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS JULY 15. INTERVIEW WAS FULL OF GOOD WORDS FOR AFGHAN-IRANIAN FRIENDSHIP. ACCORDING TO ONE QUOTE NAJIB SAID KABUL WILL NOT BE CONTENT JUST TO CONTINUE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE PAST BUT WILL MAKE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THESE RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER ACCOUNT, HE FIRMLY DENIED THAT THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO GO BACK ON TREATIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE HELMAND (HIRMAND) RIVER WATERS TREATY.

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2. NAJIB EXPRESSED THE GRATITUDE OF HIS GOVERNMENT FOR IRAN'S OFFER OF CONTINUING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN WHICH WAS MADE IN RECENT PRSS CONVERENCE BY KHALATBARY (TEHRAN 6392). HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT AFGHANISTAN EXPECTS ANY ASSISTANCE FROM ITS FRIENDS WILL BE WITHOUT STRINGS. HE BLAMED THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AND RULING CLASS FOR HAVING

STOLEN A LARGE PART OF HIS NATION'S WEALTH AND LEFT THE COUNTRY VERY POOR. WITH THE HELP OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE AND OF ALL FRIENDLY NATIONS THE NEW GOVT HOPES TO SURMOUNT THIS PROBLEM.

3. NAJIB DREW SOME COMMENT FROM THE LOCAL PRESS BY HIS REMARKS CRITICIZING THE MASS MEDIA IN IRAN. ACCORING TO VARIOUS ACCOUNTS HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN AGREEMENT WITH KHALATBARY IN SAYING THE MASS MEDIA SHOULD NOT "MINIMIZE" IMPORTANT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. HAVING FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNEMENT OF IRAN, HIS GOVERNMENT EXPECTS MASS MEDIA OF IRAN TO REFLECT EVENTS AS THEY ARE, SO AS TO AVOID DIFFICULTIES AND REINFORCE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VERSION IN SOME PAPERS HAS HIM SUGGESTING THAT MASS MEDIA SHOULD NOT TREAT IMPORTANT POLITICAL EVENTS AS IF THEY WERE MERELY COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS. ONE COMMENTATOR (TEHRAN JOURNAL) PROFESSES PUZZLEMENT AT WHAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD IN MIND AND NOTES CRITICALLY THIS IS VIRTUALLY THE FIRST TIME A FOREIGN AMBASSADOR HAS VOIECED AN OPINION ON THE LOCAL MEDIA IN IRAN.

3. COMMENT: NAJIB WOULD APPEAR TO BE REFERRING TO KHALATBARY'S ATTACK ON THE BBC STORY ALLEGING THAT AGHANISTAN DID NOT FEEL BOUND BY THE HELMAND WATERS AGREEMENT (TEHRAN 6392). HE PROBABLY WAS ALSO REFERRING MORE BROADLY, HOWEVER, TO VARIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEWS STORIES WHICH ARE CRITICAL OF THE NEW REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN. ALL-IN-ALL THE POSTIVE NOTE OF WHAT HE SAID IS THEONE THAT HAS GOTTEN THE HEADLINES HERE. LOCAL RADIO AND TELEVISION ALSO CARRIED BRIEF MENTIONS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS.  
NAAS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES, AMBASSADORS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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